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Letter dated 4 February 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as the representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, I have the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué of the ninety-seventh ordinary session of the Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, which met at the ambassadorial level issued in Addis Ababa on 30 January 2004 concerning the situation in the Comoros, the reconciliation process in Somalia, the establishment by the European Union of a peace facility for the African Union and the reconciliation process in Côte d'Ivoire (see annex). I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Filipe **Chidumo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic
of Mozambique to the United Nations
Representative of the current Chairman of the African Union

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Annex to the letter dated 4 February 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

NINETY-SEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL OF THE CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE MECHANISM FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION

30 JANUARY 2004
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Central Organ/MEC/AMB/COMM.(XCVII)

COMMUNIQUÉ

COMMUNIQUE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL OF THE CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE MECHANISM FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION

30 JANUARY 2004, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

The Central Organ of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution held its 97th ordinary session at Ambassadorial level in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30 January 2004 under the Chairpersonship of Ambassador Ana Nemba Uaiene, Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the African Union (AU).

The session considered the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Situation in The Comoros.

The Central Organ was also informed by the Commissioner in charge of Peace and Security, Ambassador Saïd Djinnit, about the developments in the Reconciliation Process in Somalia as well as ongoing consultations initiated by the European Union (EU) of a Peace Support Operation Facility for the African Union.

The Central Organ was further informed about the development of the situation in Cote d'Ivoire.

At the end of its deliberations, the Central Organ decided as follows:

(1) ON THE SITUATION IN THE COMOROS

The Central Organ:

1. **WELCOMED** the signing of an Agreement on 20 December 2003, on the Transitional Arrangements in The Comoros and the outcome of the first meeting of the Follow-up Committee on the Agreement, which took place from 5 to 7 January 2004, as well as the progress made since then in the search for a lasting solution to the Comorian crisis;

2. **REQUESTED** the Comorian signatories to the 20 December 2003 Agreement to scrupulously honour their commitment and to refrain from any act or initiative that could impede the efforts underway;

3. **WELCOMED** the support provided by AU partners, in particular, the International Organization of Francophonie (OIF), the European Union, the League of Arab States, the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the United Nations (UN), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Bretton Woods Institutions (World Bank and IMF), to the efforts aimed at concluding successfully the reconciliation process;

4. **WELCOMED** the measures already taken by the Follow-up Committee and the other structures provided for within the framework of the Agreement of 20 December 2003, as well as by the Commission of the African Union, to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement;

5. **AUTHORIZED** the deployment of an AU Observer Mission (MIOC) for a period of four months, as recommended in paragraphs 23 and 24 of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Situation in The Comoros;

6. **REQUESTED** those Member States in a position to do so and the AU partners to provide the necessary financial and logistical support to facilitate the speedy deployment of the Mission and to ensure that it functioned effectively;

7. **EXPRESSED** delight at the positive outcome of the meeting that was convened in Paris on 21 January 2004, to establish the Trust Fund to support the ongoing transition in The Comoros;

8. **EXPRESSED** its appreciation to President Thabo Mbeki, the countries of the Region and the AU Troïka, as well as the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Commission, Francisco Madeira, for their determined efforts that had moved forward the reconciliation process in The Comoros.

(2) ON THE RECONCILIATION PROCESS IN SOMALIA

1. **WELCOMED** the signing, on 29 January 2004, of the Declaration on the Harmonization of the Various Issues Proposed by

the Somali Delegates at the Somali Consultative Meetings, held from 9 to 29 January 2004, and the spirit of compromise that prevailed during those meetings, as an important step towards lasting reconciliation in Somalia;

2. **COMMENDED** President Yoweri K. Museveni, Chairman of IGAD, President Mwai Kibaki and the Facilitation Committee, for their efforts aimed at sustaining the reconciliation process for Somalia;

3. **CALLED UPON** all the Somali factions and leaders to continue to uphold the spirit enshrined in the Eldoret Declaration of 27 October 2002 and not to engage in any action that would jeopardise the Somali reconciliation process at Mbagathi, Kenya, that was approaching a conclusive stage;

4. **EXPRESSED** concern at the tension between Puntland and Somaliland and **CALLED UPON** the authorities concerned to desist from resorting to military means to resolve their territorial dispute relating to the provinces of Sool and Sanaag;

5. **URGED** the countries of the Region, the AU Member States and the International Community to strictly comply with the UN Security Council Arms Embargo Against Somalia;

6. **REQUESTED** the International Community to provide humanitarian assistance to the needy population in Somalia. The Central Organ further requests the Somali factions and communities to facilitate the provision of necessary assistance to the needy populations by humanitarian organizations

(3) ON THE ESTABLISHMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION OF A PEACE FACILITY FOR THE AFRICAN UNION

The Central Organ:

1. **ENCOURAGED** the Commission to pursue its consultations with the EU Commission, with a view to finalizing the modalities for the operationalization of the Facility, in conformity with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.24(II) adopted in Maputo, in July 2003, in which the

Assembly requested the EU to examine the possibility of setting-up a Peace Support Operation Facility to fund peace support and peacekeeping operations conducted under the authority of the AU;

2. **REITERATED** the central role to be played by the AU relevant policy organs, in particular, the Peace and Security Council, in deciding on the peace support and peacekeeping operations to be funded by the Facility and authorizing requests for funding to be submitted by the Commission.

(4) ON THE RECONCILIATION PROCESS IN COTE D'IVOIRE

1. **EXPRESSED SATISFACTION** at the progress made in the national reconciliation process in Cote d'Ivoire, particularly the return of the "*Forces Nouvelles*" to the fold of the Government and the relevant decisions taken by the Government;

2. **ENCOURAGED** the Ivorian political forces to continue to honour their commitments, in conformity with the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement and to persevere in their efforts aimed at strengthening the Reconciliation Process;

3. **PAID** tribute to ECOWAS for the efforts made, with the support of the United Nations and other partners of the International Community, to promote reconciliation in Cote d'Ivoire.

4. **SUPPORTED** the requests made by Cote d'Ivoire and ECOWAS for the speedy deployment of a Peacekeeping Force in Cote d'Ivoire. In that regard, the Central Organ supported the proposal made by the UN Secretary General in his Report submitted to the Security Council on the deployment of a Peacekeeping operation in Cote d'Ivoire.